

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT) EXCON, YO

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DEPARTMENT'S NOVEMBER 29 NOON
BRIEFING ON YUGOSLAV DIVERSIONS OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY.

1. FOLLOWING BELOW IS GUIDANCE PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT,
IN RESPONSE TO HOFFMAN TELCONS WITH USIA AND STATE, FOR
DEPARTMENT'S NOVEMBER 29 NOON BRIEFING CONCERNING PRESS
REPORTING OF SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING
YUGOSLAV DIVERSIONS OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY. THERE WERE NO

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QUESTIONS RAISED AT NOVEMBER 29 OR 30 BRIEFINGS CONCERN-
ING THIS SUBJECT.

2. TEXT OF MALCOLM BROWNE STORY, WHICH APPEARED ON PAGE TWELVE OF NOVEMBER 28 NEW YORK TIMES, WAS CONTAINED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE FOR NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 29.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE.

QUESTION: THERE ARE SEVERAL REPORTS ABOUT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RICHARDSON'S STATEMENT IN BELGRADE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE YUGOSLAVS DIVERTED US TECHNOLOGY TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT, ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE NOW AGREED TO AN AMERICAN INVESTIGATION OF THESE DIVERSIONS.

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ANSWER: DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN BELGRADE AT THE END OF HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RICHARDSON REFERRED TO AN AGREEMENT THAT HAD BEEN REACHED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF POSSIBLE UNAUTHORIZED REEXPORTS OF US STRATEGIC GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY TO THIRD COUNTRIES. AT THE END OF OCTOBER A MEETING WAS HELD IN BELGRADE WHICH ADDRESSED US CONCERNS OVER REPORTS OF PAST DIVERSIONS AND OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN DETERRING ANY DIVERSIONS IN THE FUTURE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BOTH ON A YUGOSLAV INVESTIGATION OF EARLIER DIVERSION CASES AND ON IMPROVED US-YUGOSLAV COORDINATION TO ENSURE THAT DIVERSIONS DO NOT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE GOY, NOT, AS HAS BEEN REPORTED, BY THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH EXPORT LICENSES INVOLVING THE SIX YUGOSLAV FIRMS SUSPECTED OF PAST DIVERSIONS ARE BEING HELD UP PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN BELGRADE PROVIDES THE USG WITH SUFFICIENT ASSURANCES TO RESUME PROCESSING OF EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR YUGOSLAVIA UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE. END TEXT.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD HOPE THAT THIS STORY HAS NOW DIED. HOWEVER, IF QUESTIONS ARISE THERE WHICH MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NECESSARY, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING TO CORRECT THE RECORD.

4. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. ROBINSON

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